

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing replaces all prior listings of the claims in this case.

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously presented) A method of portably handling entertainment media comprising:

storing in a memory of a portable digital storage module non-encoded entertainment media that is not encoded with any authorized usage condition; and
after the storing step is completed, encoding the portable digital storage module with access instructions defining a prescribed authorized usage condition of the stored non-encoded entertainment media.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the storing step further comprises transferring a copy of the non-encoded entertainment media from a purchase center into the memory of the portable digital storage module.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the storing step further comprises downloading the non-encoded entertainment media from a remotely located database.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the storing step further comprises storing two or more non-encoded entertainment media into the memory of the portable digital storage module.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the retrieving step is characterized by the digital format player device including at least one of a notebook computer, a personal movie player, and a seatback-mounted movie viewer.

6. – 7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the storing step is performed in a broadband frequency format.

9. (Previously presented) A portable digital storage module comprising:
an enclosure that is removably engageable with each of a plurality of digital devices;
a memory in the enclosure;
an interface configured to operably communicate with a first digital device of the plurality of digital devices to store to the memory non-encoded entertainment media that is not encoded with any usage condition; and
a controller in the enclosure configured to respond to access instructions that are encoded to the digital storage module via the interface after the non-encoded entertainment media has been stored to the memory to enable the interface to operably communicate with a second digital device of the plurality of digital devices to playback the non-encoded entertainment media in accordance with a prescribed authorized usage condition.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The module of claim 9 wherein the memory is characterized as an atomic resolution storage device comprising:

a field emitter fabricated by semiconductor microfabrication techniques capable of generating an electron beam current; and

a storage medium in proximity to the field emitter and having a storage area in one of a plurality of states to represent the information stored in the storage area.

12. (Original) The module of claim 11, wherein an effect is generated when the electron beam current bombards the storage area, wherein the magnitude of the effect depends upon the state of the storage area, and wherein the information stored in a storage area is read by measuring the magnitude of the effect.

13. (Previously presented) The module of claim 11, and further comprising:

a plurality of storage areas on the storage medium, each storage area in one of a plurality of states to represent information stored in the storage area; and

a microfabricated mover in the storage device to position different storage areas to be bombarded by the electron beam current.

14. (Previously presented) The module of claim 13, and further comprising:
a plurality of field emitters, each emitter fabricated by semiconductor microfabrication techniques capable of generating an electron beam current, the plurality of field emitters being spaced apart, with each emitter being responsible for a number of storage areas on the storage medium; and
such that a plurality of the field emitters work in parallel to increase the data rate of the storage device.

15. (Previously presented) The module of claim 9 wherein the memory is configured for subsequently storing data where different data was previously stored.

16. – 18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the encoding step is characterized by the prescribed authorized usage condition granting permission to playback the stored non-encoded entertainment media a finite number of times,

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the encoding step is characterized by the prescribed authorized usage condition granting permission to playback the stored non-encoded entertainment media within a finite period of time.

21. – 23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the storing step is characterized by the non-encoded entertainment media comprising audio data.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the storing step is characterized by the non-encoded entertainment media comprising video data.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the encoding step is characterized by a predetermined association between a user-selected purchase price for the stored non-encoded entertainment media and the corresponding prescribed authorized usage.

27. - 31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the encoding step is characterized by automatically deleting the stored non-encoded entertainment media from the memory according to the prescribed authorized usage.

33. – 36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising retrieving the stored non-encoded entertainment media from the memory of the portable digital storage module with a digital format player device in accordance with permission granted by the access instructions.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 characterized by the user-selected purchase price being determined by a user's input to a point of purchase system, wherein the stored non-encoded entertainment media resides in the memory of the digital storage module prior to the user's input.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising after a request for a usage of the stored non-encoded entertainment media, changing the encoded access instructions and thereby changing the prescribed authorized usage condition of the stored non-encoded entertainment media in relation to the request for a usage of the stored non-encoded entertainment media